



THE FLATWHEEL



Volume 58

December 2023

Number 10

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Railroads of Lorain County



NMRA Contest &
Achievement Program

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From the Editor: I am pleased to serve Division 4 of the Mid Central Region of the NMRA as Editor of the Flatwheel. My hope is to continue to provide an engaging, entertaining, and educational publication that is a value to our members. I would like to expand what is included each month. I would like to include a Model Builders article, where a member provides a summary of a recent model building project. Another article I would like to add is quarterly layout tour. I would love to hear ideas from you all for additional newsletter offerings.

Looking Forward to Serving, Scott Eastburn

The Flatwheel is published monthly (except during July and August) by Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region (MCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). All comments are welcome. Views expressed in The Flatwheel do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division 4. The Flatwheel is electronically published on the Monday prior to the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, September 26th for the October Flatwheel.



The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August). Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month. Eight of our meetings are held at the Westlake City Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd. Westlake, OH 44145. A social half hour starts at 6:00p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 6:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Two of our meetings are offsite. One is our annual picnic in June and the other is our Membership Appreciation Dinner in December. Visitors are always welcome.

FROM THE SUPER

Greetings from the Cab

Greeting from the cab.

First, I want to say to the officers, board members, and department chairs how much I appreciate your advise and willingness to serve. It is really appreciated.

The 2023 Division 4 Member Appreciation went rather well. Always a good time when we get together. Thanks to Dave Williams, Greg Noeth, and Adam Woodie for another great job. For those who did not attend, congratulations to Joe Filipiak and Brian Hass the 2023 recipients of the Dennis Novak Award.

The convention committee continues to move forward with plans for the MCR Regional Convention. The various events are starting to come together. If you have not signed up for the convention, please do so. The online registration is now available and more convention information is being added to the website. The division is in need of a replacement for our membership chairman Bill Dluback who has resigned his position for personal reasons. Therefore, a new membership chairman is urgently needed. If interested please let me know.

An election committee has been appointed for the 2024 election. All officers and director's slots are up for re-election or election. If interested in running for an officer or director, please see Dave Flebbe, Ben Lanza, or Larry Kowicki. The new contract is in place for next year for the Westlake Recreation Center. As stated at the November meeting, it appears that we will have a problem again with our meetings in October and June. As it stands right now the October meeting will be the 3rd Friday in October and the June meeting will be incorporated into the picnic at Lester.

The 2024 budget is being prepared. Normally the budget would be presented at the November business meeting but the final numbers from the Great Berea Train Show were not available until late November. Therefore, the 2024 Division 4 Budget will be presented at the January meeting by our treasurer Greg Noeth.

The Division 5 Layout Tours was a good time. All three layouts were worth the effort to visit. According to the groups guest books close to 50 attended each of the 3 open houses. Members from Div. 1, Div. 2, Div.4, and Div.12. The owners were very happy with the turn out.

Well, the train is pulling into the yard and this run is over.

Until the next time, Ron



CONVENTION NEWS

The North Coast Limited 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention

Planning continues for the 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention. The dates are May 16th – May 19th, 2024. We have selected the Crown Plaza hotel in Middleburg Hts. as the location for the Convention. They have a nice mix of meeting rooms and ballroom space for hosting the convention. The location on Engle Rd and Bagley Rd right off I-71 will make it easy for everyone to get to from throughout the Region.

We are still looking for members to join the committee and help plan the Convention. If you are interested in helping plan the Convention, please send me an email. We can always use more help. As we get closer to the Convention, we will start signing up member to volunteer during the Convention. We will need volunteers in areas such as Registration, Clinics, Bag Check for Yard Sale and Celebration of Modeling, and Help Desk and man more.

We continue to add layouts for layout tours and operating sessions. There is no greater motivator for working on your layout than committing to be open for a layout tour. If you're interested in hosting a layout tour, please contact John Witt and/or Scott Benson for hosting operating sessions.

We have lots of clinic slots to fill for the Convention. If you are interested in giving a clinic, especially after November's presentation, please contact Jerry Krueger.

And, most importantly, registration is now open. The early bird registration rate is \$90 until the end of the year. Also, while most of us live with in commuting distance of Crowne Plaza, consider staying at the hotel one or more nights. Part of the fun of a Convention is seeing old friends from across the Region and the country. Staying at the hotel gives you the opportunity to socialize late into the evening, telling modeling stories and making new friends instead of driving home late only to wake up early and drive back to the Crowne Plaza. We have an excellent room rate – make the Convention a model railroad vacation.

Jerry Krueger



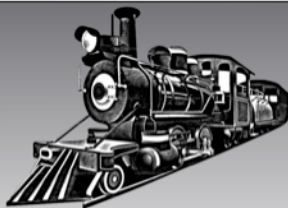
The November model contest asked the question, "WHERE'S THE BEEF" and about a dozen members showed us where the beef was. There were seventy-four members in attendance and eighty-four percent voted for their choice. The results of the voting saw Jim Grell take first place with his model. Second place went to Ken Orchard and third place was awarded to Joe Kurilec. The dioramas, which are models with a story, found John Puch's display, with cows on the loose, in first place. Joe Filipiak's diorama saw a steer trackside wondering if his Uncle Ted was passing by in a reefer, won second place. Third place in dioramas went to "Mr. Cheerios", Dave Lawler with another piece of fine craftsmanship.

There is no model contest for December due to the Christmas Awards Dinner. January's contest is either a steam engine or a diesel that is painted and lettered or simply lettered with the name of a model railroad. Examples would be The Bay Lines (John Hemsath), Central Valley Railroad (John Puch), Memphis Ridge (Bruce Brintnall) or Plum Creek Railroad (Harold Taylor). Names of real railroads are not acceptable.

The question has been brought up if a member can bring more than one entry to the contest. You are welcome to bring more than one item, but you are asked to put only one item into competition with a number. The other items relevant to the contest can be displayed without a number. These extra items would be simply for the membership's enjoyment.

The grab bags with building parts for the last contest of the season will again be available at the contest table. We ran out at the November meeting but there will be more for you at the January meeting.

We all know that at Christmas time, Santa will travel by sleigh that is filled with toys and goodies. The hope is that, under the tree, there will be trains for both you and me. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA MERIT AWARD



STRUCTURE

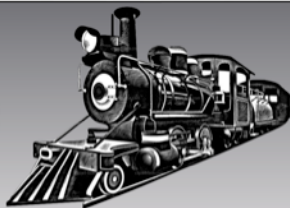
2023-24 CONTESTS

January	Diesel with yours or someone else's road name
February	Support building in engine facility (no roundhouse)
March	Complete an unfinished project
April	Last car on a passenger train
May	Grab bag of provided parts to build a building

HOW DO I GET STARTED IN THE NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM?



CLICK HERE!



CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



AP Column, John Hemsath, MMR
Master Builder – Structures Certificate

At the November meeting of the Division, Mark Pekelnicky and Bruce Bowie were each presented with a Merit Award for the structures each had built. Bruce's was scratch built, and Mark's was from a kit. Each was super detailed, and each was judged by NMRA standards and achieved more than 87 ½ points to qualify for the award.

To earn a Structures certificate, one must build twelve super detailed structures. Of the twelve, six must be scratch built. Of the twelve, six must be judged and earn a minimum of 87 ½ points out of a possible 125. There must be six different types of structures within the twelve, one of which must be a bridge.

For me, this was the most daunting certificate to earn. Twelve structures! That sounds like a lot. When I got serious about it and looked hard at what I had and what I needed, I realized I could use an N scale trestle I scratch built 40 years ago as well as a scratch-built supply shed I built when I was a teenager. There were two of the six scratch-built structures, including a bridge, that did not have to be judged. Also, note that six of the structures can be built from a kit or kit-bashed. So, achieving the certificate was not as daunting as I had feared. Also, all the structures were judged or verified at my house. I did not have to take any to the Division meeting or a Regional convention.

If you, like Mark and Bruce, are thinking about earning a Master Builder – Structures certificate, look around your layout and storage. You may be farther along than you think.

Here's a link to the NMRA website regarding the Structures certificate:

https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/achievement/ap_structures.html



THINK MODULAR

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

It's that time of year when the module group is out in full force on two fronts. First up is the module layout display at Wild Winter Lights event at the Cleveland Metropark Zoo. As in years past, we are set up in the pavilion with a good-sized layout. This event began on Thursday, November 16th and will continue until New Year's Eve.

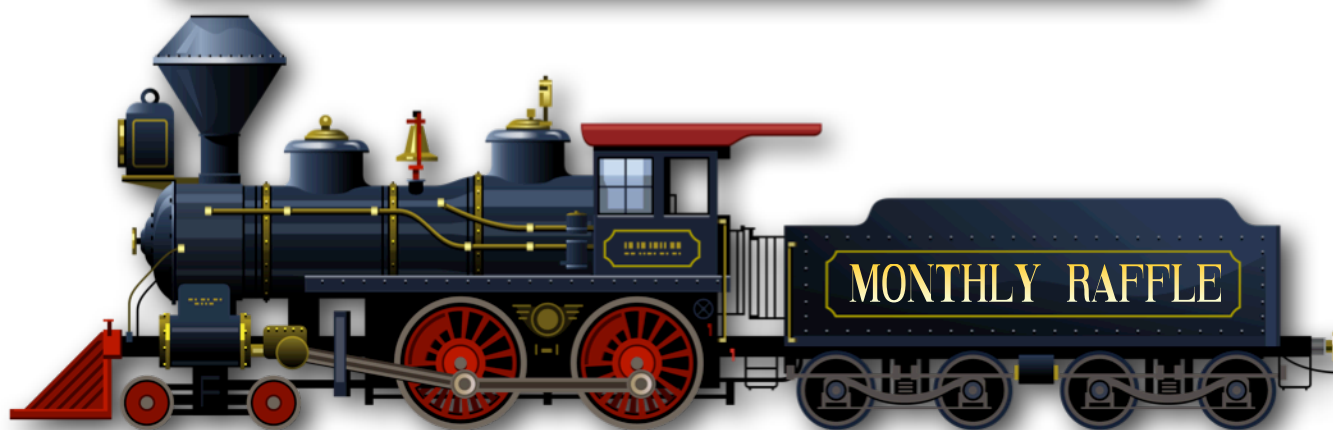
The second event is Trees and Trains at the Black River Landing. This is a free event begins on Saturday, November 25th and will continue through the Christmas season. Be sure to come out and visit both locations!

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



WILD WINTER LIGHTS & TREES & TRAINS

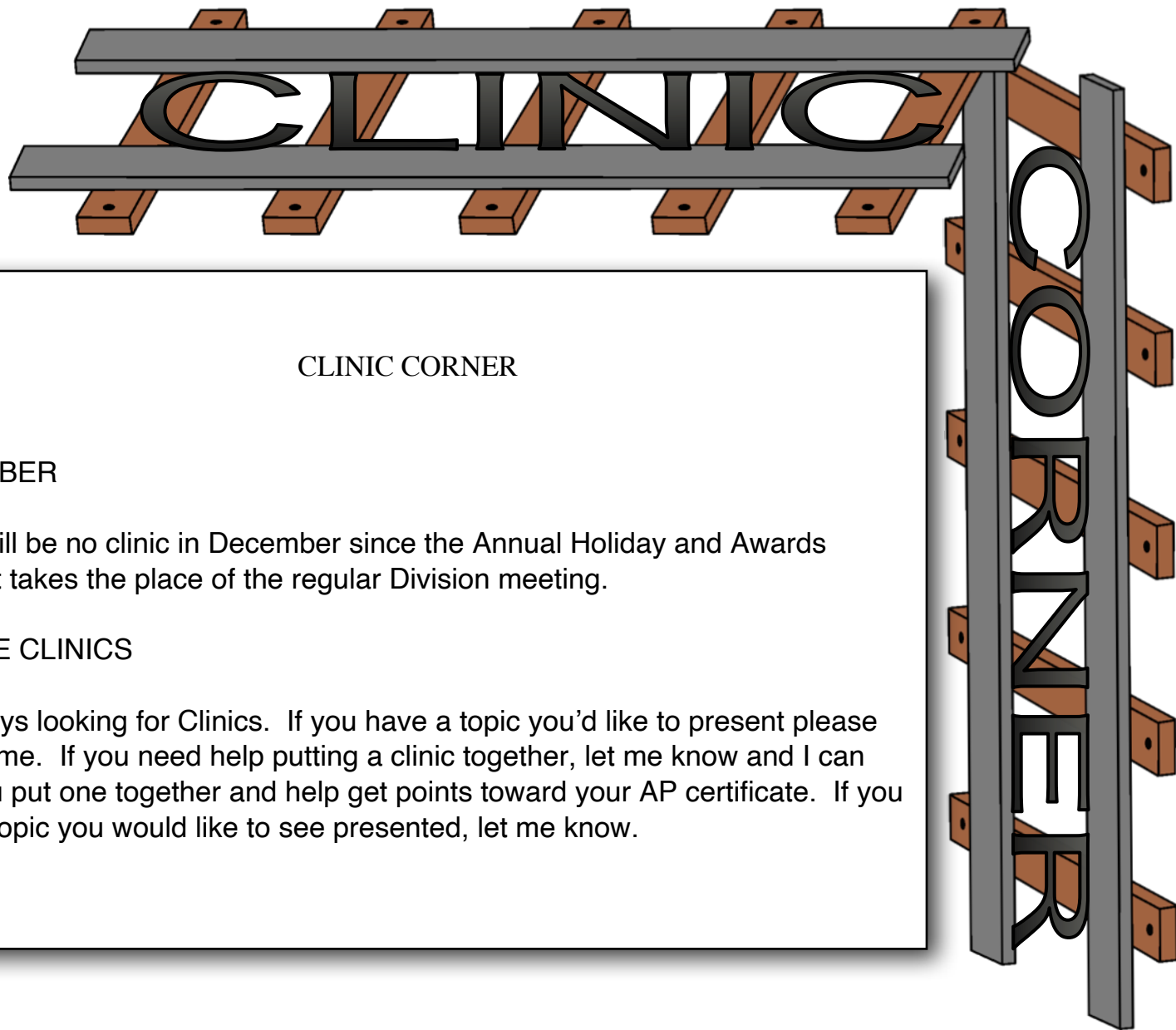


Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Get ready for the Raffle of raffles at upcoming annual Award's Banquest scheduled for Friday, December 1st at Parkers in Avon Lake. There will all sorts of model railroad items, Walthers gift certificates, gift baskets, mystery presents, and other items up for grabs! I hope to see you all there for the great food, drinks, and of course, the raffle.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



CLINIC CORNER

DECEMBER

There will be no clinic in December since the Annual Holiday and Awards Banquet takes the place of the regular Division meeting.

FUTURE CLINICS

I'm always looking for Clinics. If you have a topic you'd like to present please contact me. If you need help putting a clinic together, let me know and I can help you put one together and help get points toward your AP certificate. If you have a topic you would like to see presented, let me know.

**NOVEMBER
CLINIC PRESENTER
JERRY
KRUEGER**





DIVISION MEETING MINUTES



Division 4, MCR, NMRA, General Meeting Minutes November 10, 2023

Superintendent Ron Morgan opened the meeting promptly at 6:30 pm with a warm welcome to all in attendance. He asked for new members and guests to please stand up and introduce themselves. Ken Dobiecki and Doug Bert are new members of Division 4. Our 2 guests from Division 1 were Frank Tracchia and Dave Six.

There was a problem with The Flat Wheel, Ron asked for a show of hands of those who had a chance to read the minutes today. Some hands went up, Ron asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by the membership to accept the minutes of last meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Greg Noeth. A balance of all accounts was given. Greg made a last call for all Great Berea Train Show invoices.

Old Business:

2024 Regional Convention Status - Jerry Kruger - We are making progress; we have a total of 28 registered to this date. Will be having another Zoom Committee Meeting. Jerry will send out emails at a later date. Jerry has been scheduling meetings with other divisions to help build up registration. Be sure to go to the link and register, Shirts and cars must all be preordered. Discount on registration ends on the 31 of December 2023. Hotel discounts are on the hot link of the website.

New Membership Chairman - Ron Morgan - We can really use a new Membership Chairman,

December Membership Appreciation Dinner - Dave Williams - The dinner will be on the first Friday of December. It will be held at Parker's at 32858 Walker Rd., Avon Lake. 6:00 to 6:30 pm will be Happy Half Hour, with dinner being served at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Election Report - Dave Flebee - 1 person has turned in their letter of intent to run for an officer. If anyone else is interested in running, please see Dave or one of the others on the committee of your interest.

Budgets - Ron Morgan - Be sure to get your 2024 proposed budget in.

New Business:

Election Time- Ron Morgan - All offices are available for re-election. Please see election committee member if you are interested in becoming an officer.

Members submitting articles to the NMRA Magazine - Ron Morgan - John Hemsath, MMR and Joe Kurilec, MMR have both written articles that have been printed in the NMRA Magazine. Great Job Gentlemen!

June 2024 Meeting - Ron Morgan - Since the Rec Center will be starting their summer hours on the night of our June meeting, we will combine the meeting along with our annual picnic on the Saturday following the normal meeting date.

Working on Cool Projects - Morgan Griffith is working on some really cool things. Ramhog Shearer thanked The Flat Wheel editor for including his pictures of the T-Track layout from The Great Berea Train Show. He also wanted to thank all of those from Burning River for manning the layout at the show.

Committee Reports:

Flat Wheel Deadline - Ron Morgan - articles need to be to the editor Scott Eastburn by the 26th of each month.

Clinics - Jerry Kruger - Tonight's clinic is "How to Give a Clinic" done by Jerry. Still need presenter for after the first of the year. If you are interested in being a presenter, please email or call Jerry.

Company Store - Scott Benson - The Store is restocked on many items including micro brushes. Scott has brought some of the videos from the library with him tonight. A new order is going in for hats, so it's a good time to get your order in if you want a hat or shirt. Don't forget Fast Track jigs are available to borrow.

Raffle - Adam Woodie - All sorts of goodies, come get our tickets. Raffle will be held 10 minutes after meeting ends.

Module Group - Adam Woodie - Set up for the Zoo is this Sunday. The Zoo starts on November 14th, there are plenty of spaces available to sign up. New members are welcome to come out and run their trains, let Adam know dates you would like. Trees and Trains set up is on November 18th, start running trains on the 25th. They run only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until December 30th.

Layout Tours - John Witt, MMR - Next Layout Tour will be during the Convention and will only be open to Convention Attendees.

AP Awards - John Hemsath, MMR - For a Master Builders - Structures Certificate 12 super detailed structures need to be built. 6 of those must earn a Merit Award. The following have earned their Master Builder's - Structure Certificate:

Mark Pekelnicky for his Mid-Town Auto Body Repair Shop (kit)

Bruce Bowie for his Dietsch Brothers Candy and Ice Cream Store.

Contests - Joe Filipiak - Contest was Equipment used to set up telegraph poles, lines.

Model - 1st - Joe Kurilec, MMR

2nd - Craig Buttler and Jim Grell

3rd - George Gelehrter

Dioramas - No entries

Grab bags are available for May's Contest. Bags will also be available at the Appreciation Dinner. All pieces in bag must be used, but you can add more. Next Contest in January is Diesel With Your or Someone Else's Road Name.

Comments/Concerns - Ron Morgan - On November 18th, Division 5 has 4 homes open for Open House Tours. Ron asked all Veterans in the room to please stand and be recognized. He thanked them all for their service to our country.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by the membership to close the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA

Custom Wood Refrigerator Cars on The Old, Slow, & Easy

By Scott Eastburn

On my fictional On30 Old, Slow, and Easy Railroad every thing is made up. I have borrowed and stolen from various real railroads to tell the story of the O.S. & E. When tasked to fill out my reefer fleet I let my imagination run wild. I designed all of the decals on my computer and printed them on commercially available decal paper. After the custom decals are sprayed with a clear acrylic they are applied using traditional water slide techniques. The results are unique and interesting freight cars you won't find on any other railroad, unless I share them of course. Can you guess the real world inspirations that inspired me?



YOU'RE INVITED!

Eerie Mad River Model Railroad Club

1309 N Depot Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870



Saturday December 2, 2023 featuring steam engines
Saturday December 9, 2023 featuring diesel engines
12 - 4 pm

Layout In Progress - Operating - Scenery 85% complete
Size 25' x 30'
Donations Welcomed
For more information contact Bob Butler 419-271-8885



DIVISION OFFICERS

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SPECIAL FEATURE

A VERY INTERESTING PRESENTATION.
THE RAILROADS OF LORAIN COUTY,
PRESENTED BY ADAM MATTHEWS
by Joe Kurilec, MMR®

I've known Adam for some time. We first met at a Nickel Plate Road Historical Society BOD meeting. I now see him on his prototype railroad/model posts on Facebook.

Adam made his presentation on June, 8, 2023 at the Pittsfield Township recreation center to a packed house. I was very impressed with the knowledge I learned about the railroads of Lorain County as were many of Division 4 members that were there. I contacted Adam about coming to a Division meeting to give his presentation. He agreed. I hope to see him at a future meeting.



The Mid-Central
Regional Convention
May 16-19 2024
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

***The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's
apparel***

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

***Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)***

***Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,
Non-Rail Tours***

***More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
Look for updates on the NCL site!***

***Many Restaurants
are located
within walking
distance of the
Crown Plaza
Hotel.***



FREE PARKING

Crowne Plaza Hotel

7230 Engle Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH, 44130
(855)797-6733

**EARLY REGISTRATION
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE
IS NOW OPEN!**

***Register or print out
a registration form
online!***

www.northcoastlimited2024.org



IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR



DIVISION ELECTIONS

Elections,

It is Election time again and the Division is looking for Volunteers for Officers. All officers and director's slots are up for re-election or election. If interested in running for an officer or director, write a brief statement about yourself and your Life in Model Railroading and give it to Dave Flebbe, Ben Lanza, or Larry Kowicki. New members are welcome.

Committee Chairman
Dave Flebbe